

Remarks

Claims 2, 3, 5-9, 13, 15, 17, 19 and 21 are pending in the application. Claims 2, 3 have been amended for clarity as suggested by Examiner. The same claims have been further amended as suggested by Examiner in response to the Section 112, 1st paragraph rejection.

A declaration by the inventors, Carlo M. Croce and Frances Kay Huebner, is submitted herewith pursuant to Rule 132. The declaration establishes that the subject matter of Fong et al., "Induction of a Muir-Torre-like syndrome in Fhit deficient mice" (ABSTRACT), *Proceedings of the American Association for Cancer Research Annual Meeting* (March 2000) No. 41:68; 91st Annual Meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research, San Francisco, California USA (April 1-5, 2000) is the invention of Drs. Croce and Huebner. The Fong et al. abstract was cited by applicants in an prior information disclosure statement.

The Fong et al. abstract on its face references the March 2000 Annual Meeting of the American Associate for Cancer Research: The present application claims the benefit of the April 11, 2000 filing date of application Ser. No. 60/196,534. The claims remaining in the application are believed to be supported by the '534 specification. Thus, the Fong et al. abstract is not a reference against the present application claims.

All claims of the application are now believed in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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